

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application. Claims 12 and 13 are canceled; and claims 9, 11, and 20 are amended. Applicants thank the examiner for the allowance of claims 1-8 and 10, as indicated in the March 30, 2004 Final Office Action. Reconsideration of the remaining rejected claims is respectfully requested.

Claim 9

The examiner rejected claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. The examiner further stated, "it is not clear if the recitation of 'interconnected guide rails' is the same as the 'joined tracks' set forth in claim 1". In response, applicants have amended claim 9 to recite, "the media picker robot in the media storage library moves along *the joined tracks*" (emphasis added), thus obviating the rejection. Consequently, applicants respectfully submit that claim 9 meets the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph and respectfully request that the examiner enter the amendments pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.116 and allow pending claim 9, as amended.

Claims 11 and 14-20

The examiner also rejected previously added apparatus claims 11 and 14-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 121, as directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention as originally claimed in claims 1-10. Applicants wish to thank the examiner for the courtesy of extending to applicants a telephone conference on April 14, 2004 between the examiner and the applicants' representative. During the conference, the examiner stated that rejected independent claim 11 and dependent claims 14-20 would be in condition for allowance if applicants submitted an amendment incorporating the limitations found in claims 12 and 13 into independent claim 11. In response, applicants have canceled dependent claims 12 and 13 and have amended claim 11 to include the limitations of claims 12 and 13 ("wherein the new physical component is integrated into the function of the library by auditing the content and function of the new physical component and wherein the library maintains current operation during the connection and

functional integration of the new physical component"), thus obviating the restriction requirement.

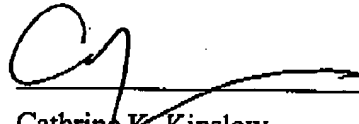
In addition, claim 20 has also been amended in the same manner as amended claim 9 to distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. Consequently, applicants respectfully request that the examiner enter the amendments pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.116 and allow pending claims 11 and 14-20, as amended.

Conclusion

The examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

DATE: 4/26/04

Respectfully submitted,



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